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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Southam Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1961

BY

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts

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1962

No report of ice cream sampling

38, Holly Walk,
Leamington Spa.

31st *July*, 1962.

To the Southam Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1961. There has been a rise in population and the birth rate continues to run at a rate well above the death rate which is unusually low. There have been no epidemics of infectious disease.

Brevity, it is said, is the soul of wit. Compression of the length of this year's report enables it to be produced earlier than for several years past, has lightened the labours of compiling the records and will in turn lessen the cost of printing.

This year's story is by no means displeasing. There have been improvements in water distribution, tenders for several new sewerage schemes and real progress in the slum clearance programme. These things in their turn make possible improvements in food premises. The passage of seven years since the Food and Drugs Act became law has not sufficed to make the food trades or the public really hygiene conscious.

Among the causes of death diseases of the heart, coronary vessels and arteries are by far the largest group. Next in importance came Pneumonia and Bronchitis, diseases of blood vessels supplying the brain and nervous system and cancerous or malignant tumours generally. These may all be classed as causes likely to increase numerically in importance as the average span of life lengthens.

This is not so, however, regarding figures for deaths from lung cancer. Here an accusing finger must point squarely at increased sales of cigarette tobacco. Five deaths in a year may not at first sight seem much. There was a national increase of close upon one thousand. Our proportion per thousand of population is indeed below the national average. Expressed, however, as a percentage of all male cancers, the lung series forms 31% of the whole and at this

level is only fractionally behind 35,8% for England and Wales. Lower levels are to be expected in rural districts. The Ministries of Health and Education are to supply local authorities with free publicity material warning the public of the health risks incurred by cigarette smokers. These messages may come too late for the majority of regular smokers. It is important that they should reach the young—tomorrow's smokers—in time before commercial pressures have succeeded in making smoking a junior school habit. One would wish to see more official use made in such a campaign of the same mass media of communication as are favoured by the vendors of tobacco to increase their sales.

May I record my sincere thanks in conclusion to the chairman and members for their courteous and kind reception at all times and for the encouragement which this has brought ? I wish also to thank Mr. Whitehead and his staff particularly for keeping me informed on all matters appertaining to my office. Indeed all your officers from the Clerk to the most junior grade have been most friendly and helpful.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Southam Rural District.

A. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year 1961

	1961
Population (estimated) Mid-year	16,460
Area	62,527 acres
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	16.2
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, (corrected)	19.2
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	14.8
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	8.2
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, (corrected)	10.2
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	15
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	16
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	—

This year the population figure shows a rise of five hundred.

Again no deaths occurred from disease or accidents of pregnancy and childbirth or from infantile diarrhoea. Common infectious diseases did not figure this year among the killer diseases except for one death certified as due to Respiratory Tuberculosis.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

1 (*a*) *Staff of Health Department.*
Medical Officer of Health (*part-time*)
Dr. F. D. M. Livingstone, M.B., B.Chir.(Cantab), M.R.C.P.(London), D.C.H., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (*part-time*)
Dr. C. T. Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (resigned 30th April, 1961) ;
Dr. K. D. Young, O.B.E., B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., T.D.D., D.P.H. (appointed 1st July, 1961).

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector
S. C. Whitehead, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector
G. S. H. PEATY, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector
F. C. JOINER, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks
Mrs. P. B. BALSOM, Miss C. FAULKNER, Mrs. M. FRENCH, *S. BUCKLEY and Miss B. GIBBONS-WARD.

*Members of Local Health Authority Clerical Staff with part of time allocated to services of the Joint Sanitary Committee, Medical Officer of Health's office.

2. (*a*) *Laboratory Facilities.*—Routine bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry, in regard to water sampling, the prevention of infectious disease and other tests not requiring chemical methods of analysis. Thanks are due to Dr. J. E. M. Whitehead and his laboratory staff for their help and courtesy to your officers at all times.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supply.—A booster station was built at Southam so as to increase pressure in the higher parts of the town with a special view to any future increase in draw-off to meet the needs of new housing and/or light industry. Extensions to water mains were made both at Knightcote Road and Stockton.

Regular sampling of the piped water supply was carried out throughout the year, 70 samples being taken. Samples from private supplies, i.e. shallow wells and boreholes, were taken in the interest of the public health, and 8 samples from such supplies were found to be unsatisfactory. In all 24 samples were unsatisfactory.

Sewerage Schemes.—During 1961 work went on in sewerage schemes at Stockton, Priors Marston, Long Itchington and Shotteswell. Tenders were received by the Council for approved schemes at Farnborough, Warmington and Ratley.

D. HOUSING.

Nine Clearance Orders affecting 59 properties in 14 Clearance Areas were made and submitted to the Minister for confirmation. Early in 1961 confirmation was received

of the Southam Clearance Orders Nos. 32 to 36 inclusive which dealt with 34 properties. Rehousing of tenants was therefore promptly under way. Two individual unfit houses were closed in accordance with the appropriate procedure of the Housing Act, 1957.

The Council had under construction 115 units of its Council house programme.

Caravan Sites Act 1960.

Number of Site applications	22
Number of Sites (approved)	20
Number of Sites (refused)	2
Number of Vans at 31/12/61	19

There were in addition a number of vans on one site operated without a site licence.

E. FOOD AND DRUGS.

No prosecutions were taken.

Inspection of Food Premises.
Food and Drugs Act and
Food Hygiene Regulations.

Informal notices relating to contraventions of the Act or regulations were sent in several instances. These related to :—

(*a*) *Fish and Chip Shop.*
- (*i*) lacking constant hot water supply available over basin.
- (*ii*) floors and walls not kept clean and floor covering badly worn.
- (*iii*) food rooms having a variety of articles stored therein unrelated to food business, viz. paint tins, old motor tyres, etc.
- (*iv*) yard gulley choked with potato parings, etc., and in foul condition.
- (*v*) assistants seen to be serving open food in shop with unclean and inadequate protective clothing.

(*b*) *Butcher's Shop* (*retail*).
- (*i*) holding on the premises in cold store joints of meat in a mouldy and/or decomposing state.
- (*ii*) had exposed for sale poultry in a condition unfit for human consumption.
- (*iii*) had unclean conditions in food preparation room.

(*iv*) with equipment not kept clean.

The latter premises had been registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, previously.

(*c*) *Mobile Shop.*

(*i*) Unclean interior of van.

(*ii*) Dirty equipment.

Meat Inspection.—All animal carcasses slaughtered within the district for human consumption were submitted for inspection by your officers. A tabular statement gives details of the work. One notes again freedom from bovine T.B. Seventeen persons hold slaughterman's licences.

Milk and Dairies.—The department is no longer responsible for the issue of licences to retailers in connection with the sale of milk under special designations. No samples were taken in the course of retail distribution of milk. County Council officers submitted 29 samples of T.T. milk for biological testing with negative results. The County Medical Officer has kindly furnished the details.

Inspection of Food Shops.—Routine inspection of these has been kept up as far as possible but less than the desirable minimum could be achieved mainly owing to calls on your inspector's time in relation to new sewerage schemes and clearance of unfit housing.

One is glad to note that small shopkeepers in villages, where sewerage schemes are now in operation, have voluntarily introduced improvements to their premises made possible by connection to main services. However, in acting without and before taking the advice of the Public Health Department they have in some instances not gone far enough to comply with the regulations. Although shortcomings have been voluntarily righted since, unnecessary trouble and expense could have been saved if they had first ascertained what were the minimum requirements. One could wish for wider knowledge of the regulations (now seven years old) not only among food traders but among architects and others responsible for drawing up and submitting plans for shop improvements. It is mutually embarrassing when professionally prepared plans have to be rejected because essential requirements have not been met.

Hotels.—During 1961 the kitchens of a principal hotel were completely modernised and enlarged.

Ice Cream.—8 new registrations were effected for sale of prepared ice-cream, making a total of 76 registered premises.

Applications are now made from an unusual variety of premises, viz.

petrol filling stations;

farm premises where poultry and eggs are sold;

industrial canteens.

The manufacturing companies for the most part provide and maintain the refrigeration apparatus. Several mobile ice-cream vehicles were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Act Section 16.—81 premises have been reported for the following trade purposes.

Storage and sale of ice-cream	76
Manufacture of sausages	3
Preservation of meat	2
Total	81

MEAT INSPECTION.

YEAR 1961

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	130	None	1	948	301	None
Number inspected ...	130	None	1	948	301	None
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ... Whole carcases condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	None	None	12	None	None
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	12.3%	None	None	1.26%	None	None
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcases condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	None	None	None	None	4	None
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	None	None	None	None	1.3%	None
Cysticercosis : Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	None	None	None	None	None
Generalised and totally condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1954

	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Anterior Poliomyelitis.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1954 ...	—	—	18	—	8	—	1
1955 ...	—	—	19	—	7	1	—
1956 ...	—	—	5	—	14	3	—
1957 ...	—	—	5	—	5	1	—
1958 ...	—	—	17	—	6	—	—
1959 ...	—	—	12	—	5	—	—
1960 ...	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
1961 ...	—	—	7	—	8	—	1

This year there was little communicable disease except for a large epidemic of measles which gave rise to 373 notifications. Over half of these were for children of school age.

Five notifications of dysentery were received but the columns for diphtheria, smallpox and enteric fever remained blank for another year.

Miniature Mass Radiography.

The promised public survey took place this year. Dr. Gordon Evans kindly agreed to send not only the large unit which had come in earlier years to our larger centres but also the small caravan (presented by voluntary subscribers). The latter made possible visits to parishes hitherto excluded. The report of the medical director follows. I am indebted to him and to your Clerk, Mr. J. I. Young, and to many others for the detailed arrangements and publicity material. The public gave good support and the results were useful.

Miniature Films.

MAIN UNIT.

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Southam	68	73	141
Long Itchington	72	101	173
Stockton	79	87	166
Fenny Compton	16	34	50
	235	295	530

CARAVAN UNIT.

Southam	78	105	183
Napton	32	52	84
Priors Marston	37	32	69
Harbury	63	113	176
Bishops Itchington	52	85	137
Gaydon	29	31	60
North End	24	30	54
Warmington	11	20	31
Shotteswell	14	25	39
Ratley	12	30	42
Radway	23	32	55
Avon Dassett	9	14	23
Farnborough	15	12	27
Lighthorne	17	34	51
	416	615	1031
TOTAL	651	910	1561

Southam, Long Itchington, Stockton, Fenny Compton and Napton.

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Recalled for large film examination to Main Unit ...	10	9	19
Results of large films.			
1. No abnormality	2	4	6
2. *Referred to own doctor*			
(*a*) Healed pulmonary tuberculosis	—	2	2
(*b*) Other chest abnormalities	5	2	7
3. *Referred to own doctor and Chest Clinic*			
(*a*) Suspected active pulmonary tuberculosis ...	2	—	2
(*b*) Other chest abnormalities	1	1	2
TOTAL	10	9	19

In the remainder of the villages visited by the Caravan we were unable to take the large films but, where it was considered that this was necessary, the General Practitioners have been asked to arrange for this to be done at either Banbury or Leamington Chest Clinics. In all there are 17 people for whom we have requested a large film, details being as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
1. Possible tuberculous lesions	1	1	2
2. Other chest abnormalities	6	9	15
TOTAL	7	10	17

TUBERCULOSIS, 1961

Age Periods	New Cases				Transfers into District				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	1	—	1	3	—	2	—	1	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.—The following table shows the notified cases and deaths during the past 21 years :—

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Cases ...	14	15	9	14	10	11	18
Deaths ...	3	3	7	4	7	6	6
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Cases ...	20	19	12	15	12	22	20
Deaths ...	3	6	6	1	1	1	2
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Cases ...	21	20	13	7	13	7	3
Deaths ...	1	2	—	—	1	—	1

5 patients were admitted to Sanatorium during 1961 and 4 were discharged.

It will noted from the tables that one death occurred making two for the aggregate of the past five years as against

seven in the preceding five years. In the same periods the number of notified cases of Tuberculosis fell by over one half.

B.G.G. Vaccination (Scholar's Scheme)

	Skin Tests	*Skin Test Positive*	*Negative reactors Vaccinated*
Southam High School	77	12	65

National Assistance Acts, 1948 *and* 1951.

It was necessary in December, 1961, to seek the Council's authority for application to be made to the magistrates' court for an order to remove from their homes two old ladies living together in insanitary conditions. The case was, however, not heard.

Miss I— (74) was not devoting to herself or to her friend Miss S— proper care and the premises were very dirty, housing a vast accumulation of rubbish. She consented before a court hearing to enter Lakin House, Warwick (Part III Welfare accommodation).

Miss S— (73) aged and infirm companion of the above person voluntarily entered Warwick Hospital for nursing and medical treatment.

Great assistance was obtained from the County's area domestic help organiser and the chief public health inspector in cleaning the premises and abating nuisances. Dr. Young —Deputy M.O.H.—also did much work on behalf of the owner to arrange for certain improvements to be made on her behalf with a view to fitting the house for their later re-occupation.

RODENT CONTROL.

Monthly visits of inspection and treatment were carried our under contract in respect of 92 farms within the district. There were no major infestations of rats or mice ; seasonal and sporadic infestations were successfully dealt with using the ' Warfarin ' poisoned bait method.

The incidence of rats and mice in domestic dwellings remains low, and there are no unusual circumstances to report.

REGISTER OF PLANS SUBMITTED TO SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL DURING YEAR 1961.

Surveyor's Department.

New Dwellings	506
Conversions to dwellings	9
Alterations and improvements to dwellings...	279
Extensions to dwellings	3
Garages and Vehicular Accesses	175
Agricultural Buildings	80
Sheds and Pavilions	1
Retention of temporary buildings	25
Outline applications, Sites for developments	130
Business premises	1
Petrol filling stations	7
TOTAL	1,216

S. C. WHITEHEAD,
Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

TABLE I.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING YEAR 1961.

	Inspections & Observations made	Notices Served		Nuisances abated after notice
		Statutory	Informal	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	407	—	10	8
Overcrowding	1	—	—	—
Verminous Houses	—	—	—	—
Milkshops and Dairies	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	8	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	23	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	—	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	3	—	2	2
Closets	279	—	95	71
Ice Cream	5	—	—	—
House Drainage	241	—	208	7
Pigsties	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisance	1	—	—	—
Factories and workshops ...	12	—	—	—
Food Shops	96	—	1	1
Rat and Mice Infestations ...	315	—	—	—
Dustbins...	42	—	—	—
Sheds, Garages, etc.	17	—	—	—
Cafes	9	—	—	—
Mobile Food Vans	12	—	—	—
Infectious Disease	37	—	—	—
Unsound Food	4	—	—	—
Water Supply	195	—	—	—
Complaints	402	—	—	—
Caravans	110	—	1	—
Canteens...	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	2220	—	317	89

TABLE II.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1961 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births. Nett. Number.	Births. Nett. Crude Rate.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 Year of age. Number.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 Year of age. Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. At all Ages. Number.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. At all Ages. Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1952	12.550	202	16.1	3	29.7	191	9.6
1953	13,050	254	19.4	8	31.5	123	9.4
1954	13,310	223	16.7	11	49.3	141	10.6
1955	14,470	222	15.7	5	22.5	138	9.1
1956	15,180	248	16.4	2	8.1	146	9.6
1957	15,570	298	19.1	3	10.0	125	8.0
1958	16,170	252	20.2	6	23.8	150	11.8
1959	15,970	236	14.8	4	16.9	144	9.0
1960	15,960	265	16.6	6	22.6	145	9.1
1961	16,460	266	16.2	4	15.0	135	8.2

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1961.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1961.

(*Provisional Figures*).

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

	Live Births.	Still Births per 1,000 Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	17.4	18.7	12.0	21.4

TABLE III.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1961.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Plague	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	7	.....	1	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Typhus Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pneumonia	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	4	3	.....
Malaria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery	5	.....	1	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Meningococcal Infection ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Whooping Cough	4	.....	1	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles	345	4	151	182	8	.....	.....	....	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Food Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals	373	4	154	195	8	4	5	3	1

TABLE IV.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1961.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
2 Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease	—	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	3
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4	1
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	7
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16 Diabetes	—	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	6	9
18 Coronary disease, angina	10	5
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	2
20 Other heart disease	13	18
21 Other circulatory disease	2	1
22 Influenza	1	—
23 Pneumonia	3	6
24 Bronchitis	6	—
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	—	—
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	1	1
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	7
33 Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
34 All other accidents	—	3
35 Suicide	1	—
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All causes	68	67